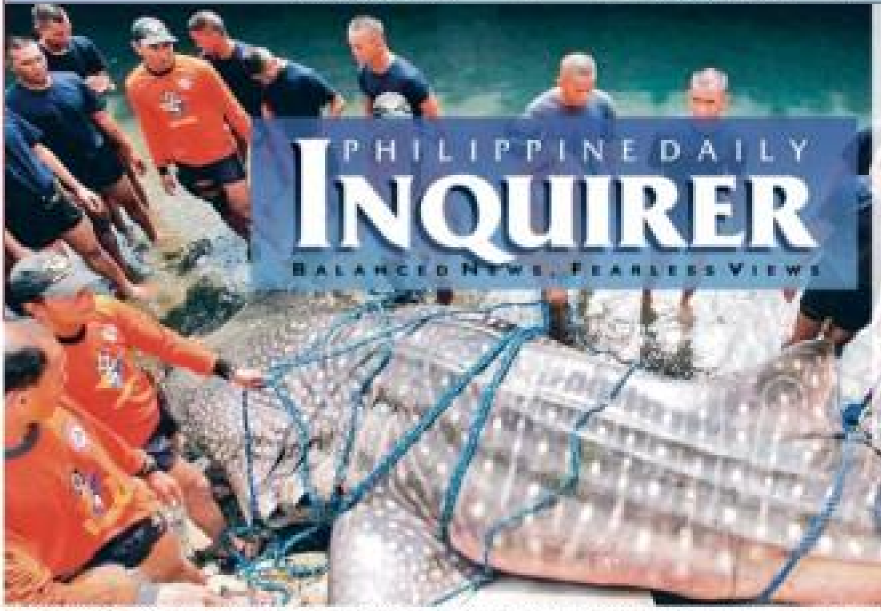
Thursday, October 29, 2009 ★★ 6 sections / Vol. 24 / No. 323 ₱18

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS



Plastics, nails found inside 'butanding'

By Tina G. Santos and Alcuin Papa

PLASTIC PRODUCTS AND NAILS were found in the stomach of a dead female whale shark that fishermen found early yesterday morning near the Manila Bay breakwater just a stone's throw from the Manila Yacht Club.

These were the initial findings of a necropsy performed yesterday afternoon on the whale shark (popularly known in the country as *butanding*), said Theresa Mundita Lim, director of the Protected Areas and Wildlife Bureau.

Lim said her office would conduct laboratory tests on samples on the blood and tissue of the fish to see if it was poisoned. The results would be available in two weeks.

BUTANDING, Page A4

NO PLACE FOR GENTLE GIANT Members of the Coast Guard tow a dead whale shark found at Manila Bay early Wednesday morning. It was later brought to the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources office where an autopsy showed plastic sheets and rusty nails inside the creature's belly. The towing took all of two hours as the largest fish in the ocean weighed more than a ton.

Chiz junks NPC, Danding

Keeps options open on presidential bid

By Michael Lim Ubac

OPPOSITION SEN. FRANCIS ESCUDERO YESTERday rearranged the political landscape ahead of the May 2010 elections by resigning from the Nationalist People's Coalition (NPC), the party founded by business tycoon Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco Jr.

"I am leaving my party because I believe that I can fulfill the role that I am bound to play in connection with the coming elections ... not as a member of any party or a companion of any person, but as just me," Escudero announced at the historic Club Filipino in San Juan.

The announcement came after Escudero failed to convince Cojuangco, NPC chair emeritus and chair of San Miguel Corp., to bankroll his presidential candidacy in talks early this week.

(See story on this page.)

"This should be the first test of leadership of any putative candidate—for him to decide on his own and take full responsibility for the decision whether or not to run and what position to run for," Escudero said at a press conference.

But to the consternation of his mostly young supporters who turned up at Club Filipino despite the belated advisory, the lawmaker from Bicol deferred

CHIZ JUNKS, A6



LIFE BEGINS AT 40 Sen. Chiz Escudero rearranges the political landscape with his stunning announcement that he is leaving the NPC and putting his political plans on hold during a hastily-called press conference at Club Filipino in San Juan on Wednesday.

Typhoon threatens to hit land on Nov. 1

By Jocelyn R. Uy

TAKE IT FROM DEFENSE SECretary Gilbert Teodoro Jr.: Don't get trapped in cemeteries on All Saints Day. Visit your dearly departed early.

With a potentially powerful typhoon threatening Luzon, possibly Metro Manila, Teodoro said residents on the path of the storm should seriously consider staying home this weekend and avoid getting caught in traffic jams.

"If they really need to visit their dead loved ones in the

TYPHOON, A10

₱5-B campaign funding may have led to split

By Dona Z. Pazzibugan and Michael Lim Ubac

DISAGREEMENTS BETWEEN "party elders" and the camp of Sen. Francis "Chiz" Escudero over funding for his presidential bid led to his decision to bolt the Nationalist People's Coalition (NPC), according to someone familiar with recent negotiations within the party.

The source, who was present in several party meetings, said the rift was brought about by "differences of opinion" over how much Escudero needed and how much he could realistically raise to fund his campaign.

He said Escudero's advisers

CAMPAIGN, A10

Chiz exit shocks, saddens NPC

By Philip C. Tubeza and Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

THE NATIONALIST PEOPLE'S Coalition (NPC) was shocked, saddened and disappointed by its presumptive standard-bearer's abrupt departure, but announced that it was rallying behind its No. 2.

In a press conference held hours after Sen. Francis "Chiz" Escudero announced his resignation, Pangasinan Rep. Mark Cojuangco, son of tycoon and NPC founder Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco, said the party was prepared to slug it out in the 2010 elections even with only its vice presidential candidate, Sen. Loren Legarda.

"The NPC is solidly behind Senator Loren for vice president. We will take the vice presidency with Loren as candidate," Mark Cojuangco told reporters at the family compound in New Manila, Quezon City.

"Yes, it's possible that NPC will just have a vice presidential candidate," he said, adding that meetings would be held with

CHIZ EXIT, A6

690 centenarians in Taguig voters' list



By Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

HER NAME REPORTEDLY APpeared on the latest voters' list in Taguig City: Rosalyn Pikalbot Galvez, 127 years old.

Galvez was not alone. At least 690 more voters aged 100 years and older have been spotted in city records being prepared for the country's first automated elections next year, according to a former lawmaker.

And of these centenarians,

690 CENTENARIANS, A4

Lakas plays coy but NP open to Chiz

By TJ Burgonio, Jocelyn R. Uy and Christian V. Esguerra

TOP OFFICIALS OF THE RULing party are of two minds over the idea of taking Sen. Francis "Chiz" Escudero as its vice presidential candidate in the May 2010 elections.

"No, we can't make that offer. He already said he will run only with the opposition," Gabriel Claudio, secretary general of the Lakas-Kampi-CMD, said of Escudero in a text message.

Claudio, who advises President Macapagal-Arroyo on political matters, said the party would pick the running mate of

LAKAS, A10

Gov't, MILF sign accord to spare civilians

By TJ Burgonio

THE PHILIPPINE GOVERNMENT and the secessionist Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) have signed a deal to keep civilians out of harm's way during clashes in Mindanao in a goodwill step to restart stalled peace talks.

Ambassador Rafael Seguis, government peace panel chair, and his MILF counterpart, Mohagher Iqbal, signed the Agreement on the Civilian Protection Component of the International Monitoring Team in Kuala Lumpur on Tuesday afternoon.

"This is good news," Annabelle Abaya, newly appointed presidential adviser on the peace process, said in a statement announcing the signing of the agreement.

"The next logical move is to resume the peace negotiations," said Eid Kabalu, MILF spokesperson.

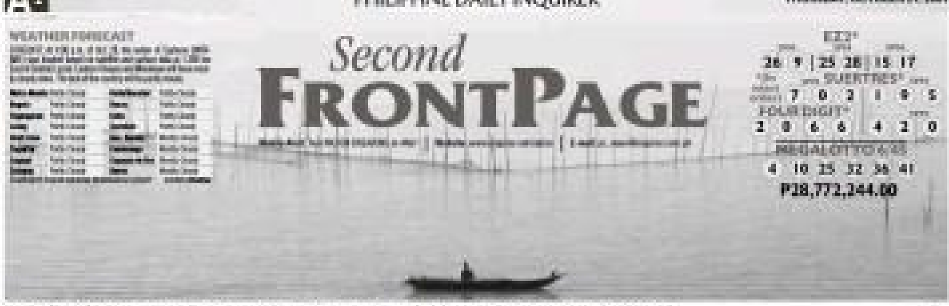
The agreement was the last of three confidence-building measures identified by both parties as crucial for the resumption of talks.

Agreements on the suspension of military operations and the formation of an international contact group had earlier been signed, according to Seguis.

"Formal resumption of talks is imminent," he said in a phone interview, adding that both parties were looking at a date for the resumption of talks, "hopefully before Christmas."

GOV'T, A10

Second FrontPage



EZ2
26 9 | 25 28 | 15 17

SUERTRES
7 0 2 | 1 9 5

FOUR DIGIT
2 0 6 6 | 4 2 0

MEGALOTTO 6/45
4 10 25 32 36 41
P38,772,244.00

New lepto outbreak in Pangasinan, La Union

A FOUR-MAN TEAM OF EXperts sent by the World Health Organization (WHO) began field investigations yesterday into the particular strain of leptospirosis plaguing areas in Luzon as new outbreaks of the flood-borne disease were reported in La Union and Pangasinan.

New outbreaks

World health aid

Laguna alert

With a report from AFP

NBI seeks extradition of Dacer suspect





IN THE KNOW

The biggest fish in the ocean

High risk of extinction



Plastics, nails found inside 'butanding'



Eyes gouged out

Joggers startled

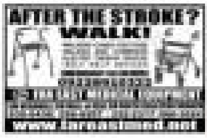
Spotted couple of times

Pollution

Climate change

More sightings

Krill, plankton



690 centenarians in Taguig voters' list



Books probe

Common birthday

Machine rejections

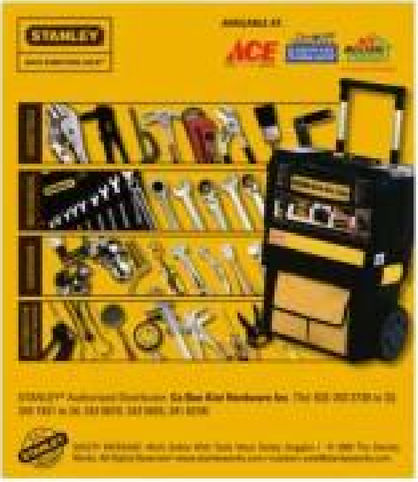
Joint AFP-MILF rescue of Irish priest eyed

Palace sets sanctions on oil companies

By Christian V. Esguerra

No wage hike for this year







Gordon seeks Subic-style plan for Laguna de Bay



GORDON



House committee to draw up dam release protocol

PDI relief drive goes to Tarlac, Nueva Ecija

Chinese FM Yang in Manila for visit

Chiz junks NPC, Danding, keeps options to slide, to run or not



VILLAR



ESCUDERO



COJUANGCO



STILL IN WITH NO. 2

Dictates of single group

Open to all options

Rise to national prominence

No party affiliation

Parties obstacles to change

Lacson, Grace Poe

Ping's role

Agonized over decision

Chiz exit shocks, saddens NPC; party may just field vice presidential bet



ABANDONED? Sen. Chiz Escudero announces he is going solo from now and leaving the NPC, the party that was grooming him to be its standard-bearer in the 2010 presidential election.

No presidential bet

Possibilities

Ready to lead

Tuesday visit

"Why this?"

From the provinces

Magdalo, others back Chiz decision to quit NPC

MMDA chief Fernando bent on running even without Lakas-Kampi support



FERNANDO

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Typhoon threatens to hit land on Nov. 1

Unlikely to change course

Disaster response lanes

No to electrical appliances

Gov't, MILF accord to spare civilians, may restart peace talks

Deal to avert fighting

International monitors

130,000 in evacuation centers

Campaign funding may have led to split; Chiz camp wanted ₱5B

Rally canceled

Only for ads

Too young

Low ratings

Go ahead

Loren's chances

Lakas plays coy but NP open to Chiz; Gibo also not averse to him as VP

Teodoro open

Linking up with other parties

Holding empty bag

Talks with Villar



WHAT'S UP

OFWs warned vs dubious Korean jobs

By Jerome Aning

THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT (DOLE) yesterday renewed its warning to overseas Filipino workers against entering South Korea through illegal means such as the so-called "escort service."

[illegible]

Relief caravan heads for Calabarzon, Bicol

[illegible]

'Voters sans biometrics can vote'

[illegible]

Gov't urged to give vaccines vs pneumonia to children

[illegible]

Public warned vs drugs on Internet

[illegible]

INQUIRER

OPINION

Swiss Chiz

EDITORIAL

IT WAS A RARE ENOUGH OCCURRENCE: A POLITICAL event that lived up to its hype.

[illegible]



Incurable deafness

VIEWPOINT

Juan L. Mercado

[illegible]

Pushy

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

[illegible]

[illegible]

RP politics' enfant terrible

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan



Juan Tama, virgin voter

HUMAN FACE

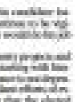
Ma. Ceres P. Doyo



Inheritance battle before Supreme Court

THE LONG VIEW

Manuel L. Quezon III



So valiant, so selfless

YOUNG BLOOD

Heather Grace Piñaden Dalusan

Advance tax payments for classroom repairs

LETTERS

Noynoy can lead us to the 'Cha-Cha' we need

US propaganda tool in 'Ondoy's' aftermath

No one as loved as Cory

Developers moving outside Baguio City

NEWSBRIEFS

CAMP VICENTE LIM

5 held for robbery attempt

Girl, 12, electrocuted



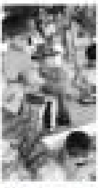
LEGAZPI CITY

Mayon spews ash anew



SAN JOSE DEL MONTE

Mayoral row ends





1990 study

Congested

Available space

Ebdane backers not yet out in open, says solon

By Vincent Cabreza
Inquirer Northern Luzon

2 road accidents kill 14, injure 71

INQUIRER Southern Luzon

Farmers' groups split on P700-M dam



THE LIBMANAN-CABUSAO Dam at the boundary of Barangays Malaguico, Sipocot, and Lupi in Camarines Sur.

A P700-MILLION DAM PROJECT in Camarines Sur, touted as the biggest in Bicol, is pitting one group of farmers against another over its economic and environmental impacts.

Runoff river dam

Submerged villages

Assurance needed

Topographical survey

SPORTS

Roach wants a brawling, 'crazy' Cotto for Pacquiao

San Miguel halts TNT; Bulls score



Eala blasts foul-prone Whoppers



BONDOC

Bondoc Forest Hills leader by 1 stroke

Serena trips foe, nears yearend No. 1 ranking



ABL: RP Patriots host Barracudas Saturday



Yankees, Phillies kick off World Series

Celtics, Lakers open season with victories



Red Cubs, Squires eye title today

People's Response

HEART, SOUL, SPORTS



SPORTSWATCH

LGBA derby finals today

POC chief given a test of genuine manhood?



BARE EYE

Recah Trinidad

PLEASE COME OUT, STEP FORWARD and prove your genuine love for Philippine sports.

Peping tells Harry: Call me, let's talk



COJUANGCO

Agassi admits drug use



UPIS, CSA gain Shakey's semis




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Aplus METRO

DID YOU KNOW

Gov't training school to be torn down

Public safety college employees ask DILG to defer demolition

THE EXCAVATOR BUCKET WAS LIKE A CLAW POISED TO STRIKE but employees of the Philippine Public Safety College (PPSC) in Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City, stood their ground against a demolition team yesterday morning.

PPSC background

Scuffle

Pleasant memories





FUN IN THE SUN

Going to Parañaque cemeteries? Read this

Gov't training school to be torn down



ALL SET FOR ALL SAINTS' DAY

MetroBriefs

Businessman killed

Van catches fire

Traffic to be rerouted in Makati for Nov. 1

A fairy-tale wedding

On Target



Ramon Tulfo

The WORLD

12 killed in attack on UN house in Kabul

Suicide bombing tied to Nov. 7 runoff polls

KABUL, AFGHANISTAN—GUNMEN WEARING suicide vests stormed a guest house used by UN staff in the heart of the Afghan capital early Wednesday, killing 12 people—including six UN staffers.

Taliban warning

Terrified guests

Screaming for help



POLICE commandos at a food distribution center scuffle with refugees from the South Waziristan tribal region where the military has launched an offensive against Islamist militants. The US-backed offensive has sparked a series of terrorist attacks by the militants. AP

Car bomb leaves 80 dead in Pakistan

WORLDBRIEFS

Tight pants a no-no for Aceh women

US town rattled by rape of girl

Sex, alcohol, fat among world's big killers

Healthy home may keep weight off

Negative effects of being the boss

UN prober warns US on use of drones

Winning strides in Philippine marathon

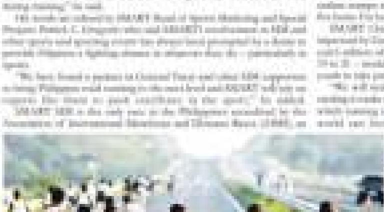


It was inspired five years ago by a daily run designed to re-instill discipline among errant cops. It eventually became a full 42-kilometer foot race supported by hard-earned funds from its founder's retirement pay.



> *"Life is a constant battle for survival... and as we grow older, the rules change on a daily basis. Our mission is not to escape, but to survive; not to deal with triumph, but to deal with failure; not to run away from fear, but to master it. It takes courage to keep on fighting. So if you feel like that the road never ends, then take that step with greater faith and never surrender"* – Anonymous







We're helping Sports.

Editor Raul O. Marcelo • Assistant Editor Clarrie S. Marbella

BUSINESS

RP warns of another rice crisis

Agri exec pushes for global stockpile

By Nico T. Orbeta [illegible]

LAPU LAPU CITY, CEBU—THERE IS A "PERFECT storm" brewing and it will severely affect rice trade, possibly triggering a replay of the 2008 rice price crisis when rates soared to record levels, Agriculture Secretary Arthur Yap yesterday said during the World Rice Conference in Lapu-Lapu City, Cebu province.

"We are not very far off from possibly another 'rerun' of 2008," Yap warned producers, traders, government officials and other stakeholders in the rice market who attended the conference.

"When prices are climbing, producers can deposit their stocks in the food reserve and thereby halt any further increases in prices," he explained. "For consumers like us, we can always turn to the stockpile and buy rice at a certain price."

Already, clouds are forming on the horizon, Yap said, referring to factors that greatly influence trade.

Oil prices, which affect the cost of farm inputs like fertilizers, are up 26 percent year to date to $79.[illegible] a barrel on the New York Mercantile Exchange.

Citing these factors, Yap called for the creation of an international rice reserve and increased funding for research on rice varieties that would cope with the effects of climate change.

Movement in the prices of rice will also depend on the timing of imports, said [illegible], director of [illegible] Commodity Trading LLC.

[illegible], a trader based in the United States, predicted in 2007 that rice would hit $1,000 a ton.

His prediction was met with skepticism until the benchmark 100 percent B grade white rice peaked at a record $1,080 a ton in April 2008.

More traders said on the sidelines of the conference that the benchmark white rice would not likely surge to the $1,000 a ton going into 2010 unless wide speculation of millions of tons of Indian imports proved to be true.

Rough weather changes had caused rice production in key exporter India to fall sharply while the world's biggest buyer, the Philippines, started to secure its 2010 grain needs early.

But [illegible] said it would be more likely for the benchmark 100 percent B grade white rice, currently priced at around $[illegible] a ton, to go up to $[illegible] to $[illegible] a ton despite production shortfalls in India, due to drought, and the Philippines, due to storms.

Thailand Rice Exporters Association president Chookiat Ophaswongse said Thailand could meet current demands with [illegible] million tons available for export.

There's also talk, he said, that the Philippines might need to import as much as 3 million tons of rice—more than the

RP WARNS /B2





MAP men of the year

THE MANAGEMENT Association of the Philippines (MAP) has chosen Antonino T. Aquino, president and CEO of Ayala Land and former president of Manila Water Co., and Jose [illegible]

MAP/B4

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES



STOCK MARKET

Shares close lower



[illegible]

₱18.5-B Laguna rehab project gets Neda nod

By Ronnel W. Domingo

THE NATIONAL ECONOMIC and Development Authority has approved the ₱18.5-billion Laguna de Bay rehabilitation project in addition to many lakeside towns continue to endure floodwaters brought by Tropical Storm "Ondoy."

According to the Neda, the project, which will be implemented from 2010 to 2012, covers the dredging of the lake's [illegible] and the [illegible] Napindan channel, apart from the development of a Laguna Ferry System.

The ferry system covers the construction of 13 ferry stations, service repair centers, reclamation of lakeshore areas for wastewater treatment facilities, and development of ports and marinas.

Under the project, four sewage treatment plants will be put up.

Of the total project cost, about ₱13.3 billion will be sourced through the Belgian government's Export Subsidy Facility.

The remaining ₱5.2 billion will be raised through commercial loans from Belgian banks based on partial prepayment guarantees offered by the Belgian Export Credit Agency.

According to the Laguna Lake Development Authority, floodwaters in affected areas may take at least until December to recede since excess water from the lake can drain only through the Pasig River to Manila Bay.

Also, the Neda board gave the green light to the proposed increase in the cost of the Panglao Island airport development project in Bohol.

Changes in the design, increased prices of needed supplies and the acquisition of an additional 14.5 hectares of land pushed up the project cost to ₱7.34 billion, or 76 percent more than the original ₱4.27 billion.

Expected to be completed in 2012, the Panglao airport project is meant to open up the Central Visayas region to more economic activities in general, and to enhance the tourism potential of Bohol in particular.

Earlier this week, the Ne-

₱18.5-B LAGUNA /B2

Singapore telco gains control of Ayala IT firm

By Doris C. Dumlao

A UNIT OF SINGAPORE Telecommunications Inc. (SingTel) has acquired majority control of Ayala Systems Technology Inc., an information technology service company of the Ayala Group, gaining more access to the Philippines' IT talent pool.

Ayala Corp. yesterday disclosed to the Philippine Stock Exchange that NCS Computer Systems Pte. Ltd. had purchased an additional 21 percent of the outstanding shares of Ayala Systems, hiking its stake to 51 percent.

SingTel's unit bought 9.98 million additional Ayala Systems shares from the Ayala Group's IT investment holding firm Avalon Technology Investments Inc. and partners [illegible] Computer Systems Corp. and Microlinkk Corp. for a total of ₱7.2 million or ₱0.[illegible] a share.

The 11-year-old Ayala Systems is one of the fastest growing IT services companies in the country, specializing in offshore software development for companies in Japan, Europe, America and Australia.

NCS Computer Systems is a wholly owned subsidiary of SingTel's NCS Pte. Ltd. The deal will thus make Ayala Systems a subsidiary of NCS and SingTel.

Avalon may have retained its ownership in the company from 50 percent to 49 percent, but will remain a key strategic partner.

"The acquisition will provide NCS and SingTel access to a large labor pool that is highly competitive in pricing, but gives best excellent value in terms of the employees' dedication to work, technical competency, learning and growth potential," Ayala senior managing director [illegible] said in the disclosure.

"Ayala Systems' experience in the outsourcing and offshoring industry will be the platform for NCS and SingTel to penetrate overseas markets," he stressed.

SINGAPORE /B2

UnionBank doubles profit

By Doris C. Dumlao

Aboitiz unit net P3.39B as of Sept., up 101%

Belle income up 148%

Nenaco nets ₱203M, wants out of rehab

FIRST METRO INVESTMENT CORPORATION

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

CURRENCIES

Double your money

BREAKTIME

Conrado R. Banal III

Galoc operations on hold

Projects worth P1.8B approved

RP warns ...

₱18.5-B Laguna ...

Singapore telco ...

Tightening of Agri-Agra rules opposed

Move seen disruptive to bank operations

PLDT rolls out new service

MAP men of the year

Petron seen incurring ₱1.5-B net loss in Q4

Supreme Court of the Philippines
Judicial and Bar Council
Manila

ANNOUNCEMENT



LIFESTYLE Food



Marshmallows, cupcakes, cookies—all for Halloween



JACK O' Lantern Mallows

KITCHEN RESCUE



Reggie Aspiras

HAPPY HALLOWEEN!

Caramel puffs

'Kinilaw na Hipon'

Making 'mami' noodles and bread, extracting coco milk—the old way

COUNTRY COOKING



Micky Fenix

WOULD I LIKE TO see the old way of making [illegible]?

That wasn't a question but an invitation from Ivan Man Dy who conducts tours of Chinatown (tel. [illegible]; e-mail [illegible]; visit www.oldmanilawalks.com). I was glad that he was one of the [illegible].

It was at the last stop of a whole day trekking and food sampling through Binondo. We entered Masuki to be shown just how in the upstairs kitchen.

It was only later that the restaurant name, in a way, [illegible] to the way the noodle is made. While "Ma" is the family name of the owners, [illegible] And the long wooden contraption like a [illegible] is called the kabayo.

The way the mami maker kneaded the batter is to ride one end of the kabayo while the other end is held steady by a vertical wooden bar nailed to the wall. The other end is ridden so that the man seems like he is on a galloping horse. This improvised kneader travels from one end of the table to the other in a galloping motion.

Added information was on the walls of the restaurant. The original name of the restaurant was Ma Hong [illegible] big house. Naturally, when the children took over, it became Masuki.

While that was amazing, the best part of the tour was the [illegible] way to knead a big amount of batter without electricity or modern equipment. The restaurant, however, has switched to a modern-sized pasta maker to flatten the batter then cut portions into strips.

Anthony Bourdain in his TV show "No Reservations" was shown a bamboo version in Hong Kong. I was glad we have our own.

Bicol tools

The apiran is another cool tool. It's made of long wood pieces and is used to extract a big amount of coconut cream and milk. And we found it in Bicol, specifically in the town of Camalig, Albay, which is known for making the best pinangat in the province.

These are packets of gabi (taro) leaves that contain the [illegible] within, a mixture of coconut cream, minced ginger, garlic, chili and shrimp paste.

The apiran is a lever where a bundle containing the grated coconut with some water is placed at one end where the fulcrum is. At the opposite end, a person jumps on the lever to bring it down and squeeze the bundle on the other end. Seven jumps and the job is done.

I just had to try it because it looked like fun and brought me back to my seesaw days. It's relatively safe because you hold on to a bar so you keep your balance. It's difficult to slip unless you have no coordination skills because you jump with your feet on slippers.

Still another interesting equipment was what we found in a Camalig bakery. It can be called a manual mixer, also made of wood. A rope is coiled [illegible] around the handle of a beater which moves by holding two ends of the rope then pulling one end backward which will move the opposite end forward. What is forward is pulled backward and so on and so on. It's like being on the slipping [illegible] in the gym but only the hands are moving.

This particular bakery run by the Marquez family makes the [illegible], a bread that resembles the Italian panettone because the batter is contained by a handmade paper bag and once baked, the bread rises to a foot high.

The oven is made of clay that looks like the Ilocos burnay jar. Dry banana stalks line the bottom of the clay oven because it provides the steam that will cook the bread. The [illegible] is like pan and is eaten during breakfast or merienda.

Bohol ingenuity

My first visit to Bohol years ago included a visit to bakeries that make the famous broas (lady fingers). So while they had partially mechanized the mixer using a small motor to move a long thin bamboo handle connected to a paddle that mixes the batter in a pail, without electricity the handle is moved by hand. What I remember of the wood-burning oven is the grills holding the baked broas as it toasted, the last step in the process. These were made of coconut leaf midribs.

It wasn't apparent to me at that look but when I was told, that was such a "wow" moment.

E-mail [illegible]@yahoo.com



RIDING the "kabayo" at Masuki in Chinatown to knead mami noodles



Marshmallows, cupcakes...

Authentic Japanese...

Presentation

Festive Holiday Cooking at The Maya Kitchen

Hong Kong suckling pig



Roast beef sandwich



Classic Caesar Salad

Moroccan sea bass

DINING OUT

Chocolate indulgence

Maple chicken

Chicken crisper tacos

Fried chicken feast



MANILA SPARERIBS

LIFESTYLE Food

Authentic Japanese cuisine–with 21st-century flavors

By [illegible]
Contributor



VJ Villavicencio

'We never go over-the-top with our dishes', says VJ Villavicencio of Jozu Kin

THEY SAY A restaurant is one of the hardest businesses to keep afloat. With so much competition and customers' ever-changing tastes and appetite, innovation is any budding restaurant's must-have ingredient for success—something that Jozu Kin has captured to a tee.

Combining authentic Japanese cuisine with more experimental ones, Jozu Kin is one of the newly opened establishments in Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City. It's situated in the still undiscovered Burgos Circle, a small, secluded nook that's looking to be the site of fine, upscale dining.

While its location is still mostly unheard of, its owner certainly isn't—VJ Villavicencio, eldest son of [illegible] circle of the [illegible] Chef's chain.

VJ, however, has moved himself away from his father's [illegible] success in the buffet-style eateries and has concentrated more on his own interests: fine dining and Japanese food—hence, the creation of Jozu Kin.

Upscale version

Literally meaning "skilled gold," Jozu Kin is the upscale version of Jozu, the first Japanese-style restaurant VJ opened in [illegible] [illegible] It has been running for [illegible] years.

"Since Jozu Kin is at the Fort, I wanted to cater to a different market," says VJ. From ingredients to cooking tools, VJ was able to fly in premium materials needed to create an upscale, modern Japanese restaurant with both authentic and experimental dishes.



TARTUFO [illegible]

"It's 21st-century Japanese, our fusion," says VJ. "We never go over the top with our dishes, to the point that [the customer] will say that it's no longer Japanese."

VJ, together with Jozu Kin's in-house chef from New York, Chef [illegible], flavors in the 21st century into their dishes by adding different influences from different cuisines without compromising the integrity of the Japanese taste.

"The very order about the quality—the freshness, which is what I like about Japanese food," says VJ.

One of his bestsellers is a perfect example of how Jozu Kin matches Japanese cuisine with other styles of cooking. The Tartufo [illegible], a pan-seared scallop with asparagus shiitake mushroom and truffled lemon butter, seared raw to preserve the scallop's sweetness. The truffle sauce, says VJ, is just a side addition. "But it's really the sweetness that we preserved," he adds.

Like caviar

Even their pasta does not lose the restaurant's Japanese authenticity. The [illegible] Pasta, for instance, has black [illegible], or fermented flying fish roe. An ingredient that's usually in sushi, it had caught VJ's attention because "it looked like caviar."

For beef lovers, there's the [illegible] [illegible] beef traditionally seared on [illegible] and [illegible] Kobe [illegible] traditionally seared on [illegible], among others.

Even the rice dishes have some tweaks, which give them a more interesting taste. The Pan-Fried Foie Gras with [illegible] Rice [illegible] is [illegible] topped with [illegible] duck liver and mango puree.

Jozu Kin also has its share of salads for health-conscious clients. Recommended is the Ushi Ebi Sardane, a mix of fresh fruits like strawberries, grapes, apples, oranges and blueberries, and grilled prawns tossed in with balsamic vinaigrette.

While the 21st-century Japanese dishes make up around [illegible] percent of Jozu Kin's menu, the other [illegible] percent are still the traditional, authentic dishes like tempura, sashimi, maki and [illegible].

VJ requires that the shrimp in the Ushi Ebi Tempura be larger than usual. That way, he says, the customers actually see the shrimp and do not get overwhelmed with too much breading. Jozu Kin also makes its own fresh wasabi.

AUTHENTIC C3



USHI Ebi Sardane Salad



PAN-FRIED Foie Gras with [illegible]

LIFESTYLE Food



Manila learns from a master cake decorator

The art form is now 'a very personal thing' dependent on the client's wishes, says Toba Garrett



LUSCIOUS cupcake with marzipan-shaped pear and oranges



WITH MARZIPAN-SHAPED raspberries

By Vangie Baga-Reyes

A LITTLE SWIRL HERE, A swirled there. A quick loose piping on top, a light rapid stroke at the bottom.

Cake decorating seems easy to do, but it certainly takes a lot of experience and bloods passion to master this kind of culinary art form. Just ask chef, instructor and award-winning cake artist Toba Garrett,



RICE rose-designed cupcake

who has spent more than 20 years mastering cake decorating. Recently in Manila upon the invitation of American Hospitality Academy (AHA) Philippines, Garrett shared her expertise in making cupcake cake decorations.

Secrets

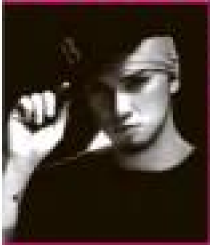
In a series of classes, Garrett revealed her secrets and techniques for making delicious cupcakes and topping them with beautiful edible ornaments, such as royal icing flowers, ganache and gum paste. She also adorned them with venue-dimensional designs including lattice work, textured rolling pin designs, floral designs and butter-cream piped designs.

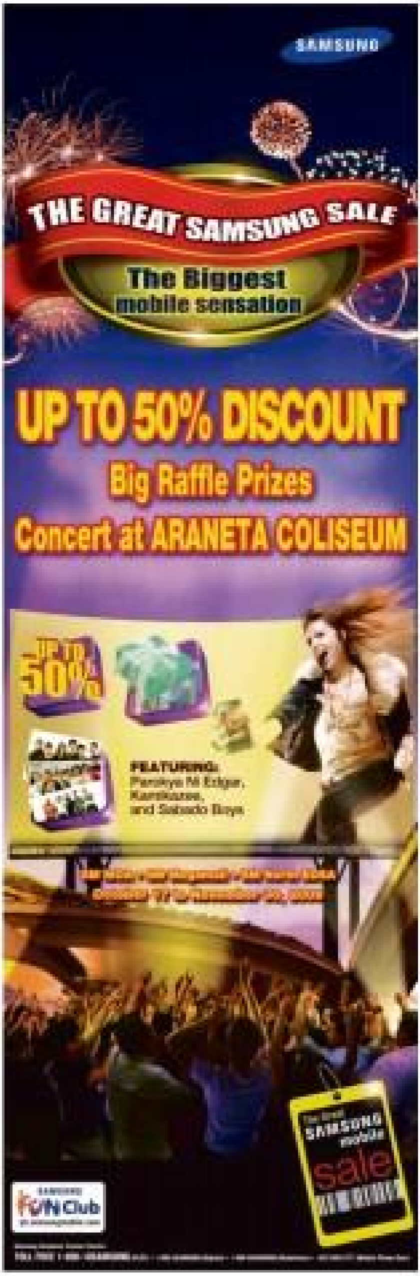
Students learned simple yet fascinating cupcake decorating piping designs such as classic and large shells, rosettes, reverse shells, ropes, garland variations, rosebuds, half roses, ruffles, swags, bows and full-bloom roses.

"We were glad Garrett generously shared some of the secrets professional bakers and cake designers have spent years perfecting," said chef Gene Gonzalez, president of AHA Philippines.

Garrett said trends in cake decorating vary, depending on the clients' preferences.

MANILA D3

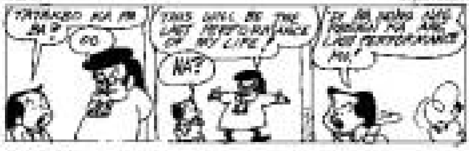




GARFIELD
By Jim Davis



A. LIPIN



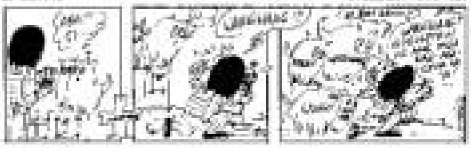
PUGAD BABOY



DICK TRACY



LOVEKNOTS



JAMES BOND



DIVINE COMEDY



BABY BLUES
By Jerry Scott



TULDOK



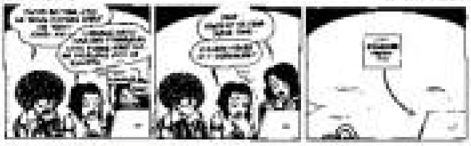
BEN
By Daniel Shelton



ATOMO AND WEBOY

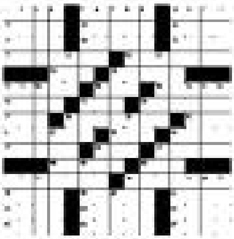


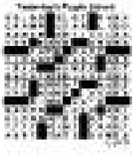
KIKO MACHINE
By Manix Abrera



HOROSCOPE
By Francis Drake

CROSSWORD PUZZLE





CONCEPTIS SU DOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

9								2
	2			7			5	
4			1					6
			8		2	4		
	5						8	
		6	3		1			
3					6			5
	4			9			1	
1								3

HOW TO PLAY SU DOKU

Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9.

Answer to previous puzzle

4	7	1	2	3	6	9	8	5
5	6	3	7	8	9	4	2	1
9	8	2	1	5	4	7	3	6
8	2	7	6	9	1	5	4	3
6	5	9	3	4	2	8	1	7
3	1	4	5	7	8	6	9	2
1	4	6	9	2	5	3	7	8
7	9	5	8	1	3	2	6	4
2	3	8	4	6	7	1	5	9

Corned treatment makes tuna more interesting





Hearty and healthy

Tuna lover

Chili Corned Tuna in Puff Pastry

Century Corned Tuna Wonton Crisps



WOMAN ENTREPRENEUR OF THE YEAR —

Manila learns from a master...





MASTER pastry chef Toba Garrett







INTRICATE rosette and leaf designs



ENTERTAINMENT

Editor: Bernie S. Velardo

Gallstones pull Clapton out of gig

NEW YORK—ERIC CLAPTON HAS PULLED OUT OF THIS week's Rock and Roll Hall concert [illegible] ... [illegible] ... Reuters



Italian fest dedicated to Asian cinema focuses on RP this year

Because men hurt, too

By Marinel R. Cruz



[illegible]

FIVE FILIPINO MOVIES WILL be screened in Asiatica Film Mediale, the largest event in Italy dedicated to Asian cinema.

The annual festival, which is celebrating its 10th anniversary this year, is on Oct. 30 to Nov. 7 in Rome.

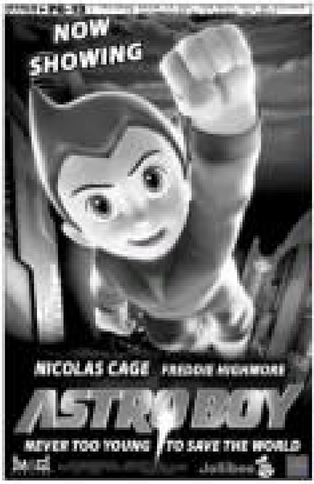
The five local films—"Astig," [illegible] "Manila" and [illegible]—will compose a special section called "Focus Manila," dedicated to the Philippines [illegible] ... [illegible]

The "Panorama" or main section will include movies from the Philippines, China, South Korea, Japan, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Israel, Iran, Kazakhstan, Thailand and Vietnam.

The Italian festival aims to create "a corner of Asia in the heart of Rome," [illegible]

"Astig," by first-time filmmaker GB Sampedro, brought home a special citation in the recently concluded 14th Pusan International Film Festival [illegible] ... (Related story at left.)

For the same movie, Sampedro won Best Director in the 5th Cinemalaya Philippine Independent Film Festival last July. *Marinel R. Cruz*





Career boosters – and breakers



JOHN Lloyd Cruz



GERALD Anderson



SAM MILBY

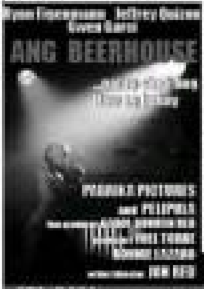
"Sweetheart Snackbar"

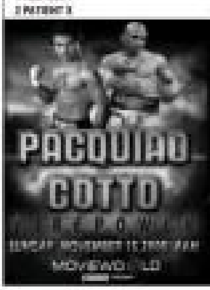
VIEWFINDER

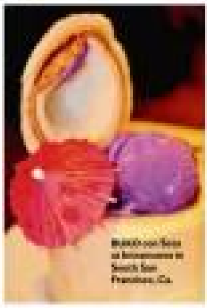
Nestor U. Torre



Chard's acting reputation still weak







One happy foodie

My eyes danced at the sight of 'aligue' rice, and my heart was filled with joy

BACK STORY



Lea Salonga

Yes, of course

Familiar names

New twist